

Building Trust-India First: A Strategic Imperative

**CII NATIONAL MISSION ON WAR
AGAINST CORROSION**

CII International Conference on Corrosion Technology & Management

CORTEM²⁰²⁵
SHAPING A CORROSION FREE NATION

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON CORROSION
TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT

 17-19 JULY 2025







 CHENNAI TRADE CENTRE,
CHENNAI

CORROSION COSTS THE GLOBAL ECONOMY OVER **\$2.5 TRILLION ANNUALLY** – BUT IT'S PREVENTABLE. BE A PART OF INDIA'S MOST AUTHORITATIVE PLATFORM UNITING **INDUSTRY LEADERS, POLICYMAKERS, RESEARCHERS & SOLUTION PROVIDERS** TO ADDRESS THE URGENT CHALLENGE OF CORROSION MANAGEMENT & MITIGATION.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

-  Deliberations on policy interventions for Corrosion Management & Mitigation
-  Technology Showcase
-  B2B Networking & Industry Collaborations
-  Presentations and Panel Discussions by Global Experts
-  Sectoral Best Practices (Oil & Gas, Infrastructure, Construction, Manufacturing, Defence, etc.)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

-  CXO Suite
-  Plant Heads & Maintenance Professionals
-  Safety, Quality & Reliability Engineers
-  Infrastructure & Project Consultants
-  Academic & R&D Institutions
-  Government & Regulatory Bodies

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Contents

Volume 47 No. 6 June 2025

COVER STORY

06 Building Trust-India First: A Strategic Imperative

The CII Annual Session held recently hosted insightful discussions on national priorities, witnessed several key launches to empower the Industry, and brought together prominent stakeholders and delegates across sectors. The cover story sheds light on the key developments and captures the views shared by leaders

LEADERSHIP

04 CII Elects New Office Bearers for 2025-26

ANALYSIS

18 Manufacturing a Superpower

PLUS...

ENGAGING WITH THE WORLD

SECTORSCAPE

PORTFOLIO FOR EXCELLENCE

REGIONAL REVIEW

... AND MORE

We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Do write to us at sharmila.kantha@cii.in

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CII Elects New Office Bearers for 2025-26



Mr Rajiv Memani
President, CII
and Chairman & CEO, EY India



Mr R Mukundan, President Designate, CII
and Managing Director & CEO,
Tata Chemicals Ltd



Dr Suchitra K Ella, Vice President, CII
and Co-Founder & Managing Director,
Bharat Biotech International Ltd

The New CII Leadership

The newly constituted National Council of CII at a meeting elected its new office bearers for the year 2025-26. Mr Rajiv Memani, Chairman and CEO of EY India has assumed office as the President of CII for 2025-26. He takes over from Mr Sanjiv Puri, Chairman & Managing Director of ITC Ltd.

Mr Memani is also a member of EY Global Executive Board as the Chair of its Growth Markets Council. He is a trusted advisor to large Indian companies, private equity funds and multinational organizations, principally advising them on building confidence, mergers and acquisitions, technology and smart capital allocation strategies. In his Emerging Markets role, his responsibilities include advancing EY's emerging markets growth agenda and connecting their priorities with the global firm's investments.

Prior to becoming the Chairman and CEO, Mr Memani established EY India's market-leading Corporate Finance (now Strategy & Transactions) practice in the late 90s.

Mr Memani was the President-Designate of the Confederation of Indian Industry for the year 2024-25 and Vice President for the year 2023-24.

He contributes actively to the public discourse on tax and policy reforms and has been a member of several high-powered Government of India committees, including the Ministry of Finance taskforce that drafted a new Direct Tax Code in 2019.

In addition, Mr Memani is the President of the Board of Him Jyoti School, an institution dedicated to providing quality education to underprivileged girls in Uttarakhand. He is also a Board member of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Sirmaur and a member of the governing council of KREA University.

Mr Memani has also been the driving force behind EY Foundation, which is active in the areas of education, entrepreneurship for rural women and environment. Mr Memani is a Chartered Accountant and holds a

Bachelor of Commerce degree from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University.

Mr R Mukundan, Managing Director & CEO of Tata Chemicals Limited takes over as CII's President-Designate for 2025-26. Mr Mukundan joined Tata Administrative Service in 1990, after completion of MBA from FMS, Delhi University. He is a distinguished alumnus of IIT, Roorkee; Fellow of Indian Chemical Society and an alumnus of Harvard Business School.

During his 33 years career with Tata Group, he has held various responsibilities across the chemical, automotive and hospitality sectors of the Tata Group. He serves on industry forums and impact organisations.

Mr Mukundan was the Vice President of the Confederation of Indian Industry CII for the year 2024-25. He was the Chairman of CII Western Region in 2013-14. He Chaired CII's Institute of Quality Advisory Council, CII's National Committee on Environment and CII's National Committee of Industrial Relations in 2023.

Dr (Mrs) Suchitra K Ella, Co-founder and Managing Director, Bharat Biotech International Limited takes over as CII Vice President for 2025-26. She was instrumental in founding Bharat Biotech way back in 1996.

In the past decade, Dr (Mrs) Ella has co-founded and nurtured several companies in veterinary sciences, agri-biotech parks, food processing including pre-clinical toxicology and research institute.

In 2022, Dr (Mrs) Suchitra K Ella was honoured with Padma Bhushan for her outstanding contributions to society and Industry. She is also recipient of SAARC women award, Colombo; Business Achievers Award, SIMA, Singapore among others. Dr (Mrs) Ella was the Chairperson of CII Andhra Pradesh State from 2012-13, Founder Chairperson of CII's Indian Women's Network from 2013-15, and Chairperson of CII Southern Region for the year 2022-23.

Building Trust-India First: A Strategic Imperative

The CII Annual Session was held on 29-30 May in New Delhi, cantered around the theme "Building Trust – India First." The event featured insightful discussions on national priorities, witnessed several key launches to empower the Industry, and brought together prominent stakeholders and delegates. It was a dynamic and impactful gathering, marked by significant engagement and outcomes. The cover story captures the highlights

In a world reshaped by geopolitical shifts, tariff wars, and changing power dynamics, trust has become central to economic partnerships, investment decisions, and sustainable growth. As countries reassess trade strategies and national priorities, India has adopted an 'India First' approach, firmly rooted in national interest while being globally engaged. India's emergence as the 4th largest and fastest growing large economy reflects its commitment to inclusive and balanced growth.

Sustaining this momentum requires next-generation reforms that enhance transparency, foster innovation, and strengthen institutions. Equally important is responsible capitalism, where enterprise aligns with equity, and

business growth reinforces societal trust, essential for long-term investor confidence and economic resilience. With global value chains being redrawn and trade corridors redefined, India stands at a historic juncture to lead in quality manufacturing, champion inclusive global growth, and position itself as a trusted international partner.

The CII Annual Business Summit 2025 was organized around the theme 'Building Trust-India First' focusing on five key themes. First, enhancing competitiveness through innovation, quality standards, and productivity to ensure India leads in value-driven solutions. Second, advancing sustainability by promoting green technologies and climate resilient infrastructure. Third, driving innovation



(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Lt Gen N S Raja Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Vice Chief of the Army Staff; Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary; Sanjiv Puri, then President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd; Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence; Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM, Chief of the Naval Staff; Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, PVSM, AVSM, Chief of the Air Staff; Baba Kalyani, Founder President, SIDM and Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Forge; Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence (R&D), and Chairman, DRDO at the CII Annual Business Summit in New Delhi

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‘Building Trust – India First’ though simple in words, are profound in meaning. Indian-made systems, sub-systems, and services are now being exported to over 100 countries. Make in India is crucial to national security. The success of Operation Sindoor showcases the excellence of homegrown technologies, including those based on Artificial Intelligence and cyber defence technologies. MSMEs play a significant role in the supply chain and in creating employment opportunities.

Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri

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through AI and advanced manufacturing. Fourth, fostering collaboration between Government, Industry, academia, and international partners. Fifth, securing energy, data, and digital infrastructure to ensure resilience. For India, building trust is not just an economic strategy, it is the foundation of nation-building and global leadership.

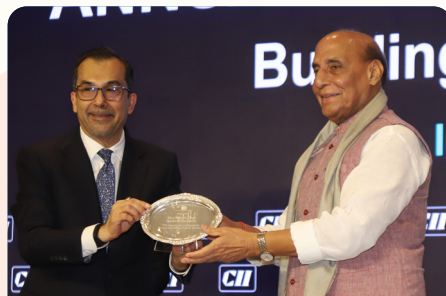
Inaugural Plenary

The Summit was inaugurated by Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri. Lauding the theme ‘Building Trust-India

First’ as though being simple in words yet profound in meaning, the Raksha Mantri stressed that trust remains a cornerstone for stability.

As he spoke about national security, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that India is not only a producer of defence products but a significant exporter too. “The success of Operation Sindoor showcases the excellence of home-grown technologies, including those based on Artificial Intelligence and cyber defence technologies.”

Felicitation of Leaders





Film on CII Centre for Health being launched by Jagat Prakash Nadda, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilisers at the session on 'Healthcare for Viksit Bharat - by 2047.' Also seen are Sanjiv Puri and Chandrajit Banerjee

Highlighting the importance of Atmanirbharta being the only way, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, stressed upon the need to act today and get into quick Make in India programs so that we can achieve the 'Now Ready' part of it, while 'Design in India' continues to progress. Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, noted that today India is realising its rich maritime potential, with apex-level decisions and policies reflecting this broader maritime renaissance.

A comprehensive CII-KPMG India report titled "Atmanirbhar, Agrani, and Atulya Bharat 2047" was also launched.

Shri Rajnath Singh; Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM, Chief of the Naval Staff; Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, PVSM, AVSM, Chief of the Air Staff; Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary; Lt Gen N S Raja Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Vice Chief of the Army Staff and Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence (R&D) & Chairman, DRDO were felicitated by Mr Sanjiv Puri, then President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd; Mr Baba Kalyani, Founder President, SIDM and Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Forge and by Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

Launch of Centre for Health

The CII Centre for Health was launched by Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilisers at the session "Healthcare for Viksit Bharat - by 2047".

Shri Nadda called for a unified national effort to strengthen national healthcare system aligned with India's 2047 development roadmap. The Centre for Health aligns seamlessly with this approach, serving as the key platform for public-private engagement in health. Guiding CII's health initiatives across its 70 state offices,

the Centre will focus on fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration, advancing low-cost health innovations, addressing supply chain barriers, encouraging private sector engagement beyond CSR, leveraging technical expertise to strengthen health systems, and promoting workplace wellness and health as a boardroom agenda.

The Centre will work in tandem with the Government in achieving its national health goals. In addition, the Centre will facilitate the role of the private sector to prioritize innovations and streamlining their supply chain, to go much beyond their CSR commitment.

HIGHLIGHTS

11	MINISTERS
4500+	DELEGATES
35	SESSIONS
134	SPEAKERS

Shri Nadda concluded by reiterating the Government's commitment to a citizen first approach, built on innovation, collaboration and compassion. The Centre incorporates this approach by empowering workplaces and larger community through fostering strategic partnerships, enabling innovative local low cost health solutions to reach the last mile.

India's rise as a hub for pharmaceuticals and medical devices was spotlighted, with the Minister citing India's ability to meet global demand, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, as evidence of its growing stature. "We moved from being dependent to becoming the dependable," he said. The Centre



(L -R): Ipsita Dasgupta, Managing Director, HP India; Chandrajit Banerjee; Sanjiv Puri; Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry; Rajiv Memani, then President Designate, CII and Chairman & CEO, EY India & Chair, EY Growth Markets Council and R Mukundan, then Vice President, CII and Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd at the Launch of the Centre on AI

will establish an innovation hub for health dedicated to promoting, facilitating, and influencing the development, implementation, and scale up of need based affordable innovative technologies on a global platform through international engagement.

Shri Nadda called on the Industry and all stakeholders to contribute to making India a global benchmark in healthcare by 2047.

Centre for Artificial Intelligence

The Centre for Artificial Intelligence was launched by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce and Industry. The Centre is a strategic initiative jointly established by CII and HP India to accelerate the responsible adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across Indian Industry, particularly among MSMEs. With a vision to transform India into a globally competitive AI-driven economy, the Centre aims to serve as a national platform for AI advocacy, capacity building, innovation, and policy support.

This initiative is designed to support businesses towards adopting and implementing AI in a tangible and scalable way. The Centre will serve as a key enabler, supporting widespread adoption and helping businesses explore how AI can drive productivity, innovation, and growth in their operations. Its mission is to provide companies, especially small and medium enterprises with tools, systems, and strategies to integrate AI into their operations, thereby improving efficiency, productivity, and global competitiveness.

To accelerate this growth, the Centre has officially launched a nationwide AI Immersion Program, which conducts workshops with aiming to reach 10,000 MSMEs across 20 cities in India. These

workshops offer practical, hands-on experience to help businesses understand the impact of AI on productivity, competitiveness, and operational excellence.

In its pilot phase, the Centre has already made significant impact by training over 6000 MSMEs across 15 cities on the use of AI in business through its unique AI Immersion Week programme. It is also conducting working group consultations on key themes like AI adoption, generative AI, AI in cybersecurity, agriculture, regulation, and more

The Centre is launching a series of programmes including AI masterclasses for CXOs, capacity building modules on AI security and generative AI, roundtables on AI in HR, agriculture, cybersecurity, and state-level applications as well as joint research collaborations with IITs and global institutions like NUS Singapore.

Case Studies on Pioneering AI Adoption across Diverse Sectors

In order to handhold Industry towards AI Adoption a Compendium of Case Studies on Pioneering AI Adoption across diverse sectors was released at the session on "The Indian AI Ecosystem: Catalyzing Growth with responsible Governance".

Recent trends show AI making remarkable strides in areas such as natural language processing, computer vision, and autonomous systems. The rapid development of AI-driven analytics is also enabling businesses to gather deeper insights from data, fostering innovation and competitiveness. Additionally, the integration of AI with emerging technologies like 5G, IoT, and blockchain is opening newer avenues for growth and transformation across sectors.



The compendium aims to encourage responsible AI usage, build trust within the Indian Industry, and raise awareness. These advancements will not only accelerate technological progress but also create new opportunities for industries, especially MSMEs, to innovate and thrive.

National Best Practices Award on Future Ready Manufacturing

With rapid technological advancements, evolving product designs, and increasing global competition, manufacturing organizations must continuously innovate to remain future ready. In this context, CII launched the inaugural edition of the “National Best Practices Award on Future Ready Manufacturing”.

The Award is aimed at recognizing and measuring the efforts by Industry and outcomes achieved in adopting future ready technologies and technology solutions

in their manufacturing processes, thus encouraging and facilitating organizations to accelerate continuous improvement in manufacturing.

The Award focusses on the role of emerging technologies in shaping the future of manufacturing in India and businesses that have successfully adopted cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions. It also aims to drive smart manufacturing excellence with special focus on technology and innovation.

Shri Suman K Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and Mr Rajiv Memani, then President Designate, CII and Chairman & CEO, EY India and Mr Dilip Sawhney, Chair, Awards Jury and Managing Director, Rockwell Automation Pvt Ltd felicitated the winners.



Winners of the CII National Best Practices Awards on Future Ready Manufacturing facilitated by Suman K. Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog Dilip Sawhney, Chair, Awards Jury and Managing Director, Rockwell Automation Pvt Ltd



(L-R): Loknath Behera, Managing Director, Kochi Metro; Shradha Suri Marwah, President, ACMA and Chairperson and Managing Director, Subros; Kamal Bali, President & Managing Director, Volvo Group India; R Dinesh, Past President, CII and Executive Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions; Salil Gupte, President, Boeing India and South Asia and Tarun Sawhney, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Triveni Engineering and Industries at the launch of the 'Coalition on Future Mobility'

Launch of Coalition on Future Mobility

CII launched a 'Coalition on Future Mobility' on the sidelines of the CII Annual Business Summit 2025. The Coalition was launched by Mr R Dinesh, Chairman, CII Coalition on Future Mobility and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain, Solutions Ltd and Co-Chair Mr Satyakant Arya. The Coalition will work towards integrating the various aspects of the mobility ecosystem and follow the vision of clean and sustainable mobility solutions that help reduce logistics costs and emissions, decrease fossil fuel dependency, and ensure an efficient, future ready mobility network. The Coalition takes cue from Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 7Cs [Common, Connected, Convenient, Congestion-free, Charged (electric), Clean and Connecting Edge]. The Coalition will coordinate efforts across sectors, adopt clean

and efficient practices, promote innovation and use of technology, and streamline infrastructure development.

Launch of MSME Export Helpdesk

The launch of an export helpdesk for MSMEs was announced. Conceptualized by CII's Market Facilitation Services (MFS) division, the helpdesk is an initiative aimed at accelerating the global integration and competitiveness of Indian businesses, with a special focus on MSMEs. The helpdesk aims to address key challenges faced by MSMEs in their journey toward internationalization and global market expansion. The launch of CII's MSME Export Helpdesk reinforces CII's commitment to strengthening India's integration into global value chains and fostering inclusive growth across all sectors of Indian Industry.



(L-R): M Ponnuswami, Co-Chairman, CII National MSME Council and CMD, Pon Pure Chemical India Pvt Ltd.; Deepak Jain, Chairman, Lumax Group; Sunil Mathur, Managing Director & CEO, Siemens Ltd; Dr Rajneesh, Additional Secretary & Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME, Government of India; R Mukundan; Sunil Chordia, Chairman and Managing Director, Rajratan Global Wire Ltd and Shreekanth Somany, Chairman and Managing Director, Somany Ceramics Ltd launching the MSME Export Helpdesk

QUOTES

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The theme of healthcare for Viksit Bharat by 2047 is very apt, as health transitions don't happen overnight. When we talk about healthcare in 2047, we begin to understand how to shape the roadmap and the health systems at that point of time. Public-private partnerships can be instrumental in ensuring that early detection and preventive healthcare reach every corner of the country.

J P Nadda, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilisers



It is a moment of pride for us that we are well on track as the IMF has projected that by 2027, India will be the world's 3rd largest GDP. It is also very appropriate that despite all the turbulence, all the volatility, uncertainty & complexities that the world is going through, we continue to be the fastest growing economy of the world. We continue to power global growth through growth in India.

Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry



We started using technology as part of the Prime Minister's Digital India Mission, and one by one we developed artefacts that collectively became the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). The UPI system under DPI has not only transformed the lives of people but also given us global recognition. And that success has helped us develop many financial services like microinsurance, microcredit, or digital credit solutions.

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology



North Eastern states are growing rapidly and will indeed be the engines of growth for India. Prime Minister Modi has transformed the North East over the last 11 years. Today, the villages on the border have been transformed to vibrant villages. The region has also witnessed significant expansion in infrastructure and trade, with growing number of airports, railways and highways.

Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region



Led by PM Shri Narendra Modi ji, India's Climate Policy Architecture is about securing the rights of 140 crore citizens to clean energy. India's role as a key player in the global climate arena and as a voice of the Global South is supported by three primary drivers- building a self-reliant circular economy, protecting natural ecosystems & strengthening climate resilience; and promoting adaptation

Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change



India is the only country where people from all over the world come to gain knowledge and wisdom. There is a paradigm shift in tourism after COVID-19. People want to explore and live the experience. Therefore, the tourism sector should be technologically advanced, and various forms of technical know-how should be incorporated to make it more effective and efficient.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Culture and Tourism



Women are seen as key contributors to progress in every nation, and our Government's efforts are towards empowering women and prioritizing women's development. Women are working at the grassroots level and are self-sufficient, actively support women entrepreneurs, raise awareness about health issues through radio programmes, and turn ideas into big initiatives through their exemplary efforts.

Annpurna Devi, Minister of Women and Child Development



Energy is a prerequisite for economic progress. Green energy and green hydrogen are going to be the next level substitutes, which will transform the energy sector to a level where energy efficiency and effectiveness of energy consumption products will be properly channelised.

Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas



We have the power, skills and the ability to fulfil the global requirements for skilled manpower. We must look into the issue of youth employment, which has immense potential and presents ample opportunities. In 2047, India will celebrate its 100th year of independence and by tapping into these opportunities we will realise our vision of a Viksit Bharat.

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports

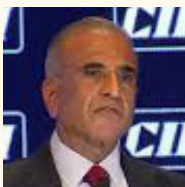
QUOTES



We need to change gears from ease of doing business to speed of doing business. Andhra Pradesh is well-positioned in traditional industries and infrastructure.

I want to introduce the new concept of P4 or 'Public Private Peoples' Partnership', where people can be considered as capital and not liabilities. With proper planning, India will do service to the global community for another hundred years.

N Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh



Building trust has been an article of faith for all of us. We must keep 'India First' at the core of all our decisions. The Industry carries the responsibility of driving the

country's economic agenda but must do more to win the full trust of all stakeholders.

Sunil Bharti Mittal, Past President, CII and Chairman, Bharti Enterprises



Assessment of education policies must ensure a holistic evaluation of both, students and teachers, in order to bridge any gaps and move in the right direction by equipping

youth with the right set of competencies.

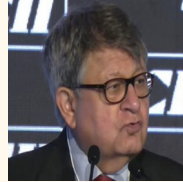
Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education



Through culture, creativity, and technology, India has become the digital powerhouse of the world. Our strengths go beyond our traditions and we are also known as a country which

blends creativity and technology. This soft power will transform India into a future superpower.

Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting



A sustained rise in labour productivity is a prerequisite for realising the "Viksit Bharat" dream, where each citizen is visibly empowered and becomes an equity holder in the growth

aspirations of the new and progressive India, as envisioned by the Prime Minister. The participation of the private sector as a stakeholder in this endeavour is crucial for hastening India's development journey.

Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog



Over the last decade, we have seen unparalleled investments led by public investments in both public and digital infrastructure. We are therefore in a good place when it comes

to competitive, economic and strategic deal-making that is growing around the world

Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department of Defence



In today's uncertain times, Indian Industry should aspire to compete better globally rather than being protected. Manufacturing is fundamental for driving India's engine of growth. Driving supply

chains is another important factor. The digital public infrastructure and low-cost solutions are other drivers which empower the common man.

Dammu Ravi, Secretary - ER, Ministry of External Affairs



Consumption & investments are two of the biggest drivers for any economy. It is heartening that the monthly per capita expenditure of the lowest 5% of the economy

has increased by 20% in the last one year. So, consumption growth at the bottom of the pyramid is extremely positive.

Dr Saurabh Garg, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation



Changes like redrawing of trade relations have accelerated maybe in the last couple of months but work towards them had begun much before. Post Covid, there was

a realisation on the need to build more resilient value chains & there has been a consistent effort towards this thereafter.

Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary, Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade



We should be able to work out a trade partnership where we have natural comparative advantages and preferential pathways for our businesses on both sides, so that,

wherever possible, businesses become natural allies, able to work and grow together.

Rajesh Agrawal, Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry



IMF projects India to reach a USD 5 trillion economy by 2027-28. Achieving this milestone and avoiding the middle-income trap requires improving living standards.

Trust, deregulation, and reciprocation from the private sector are pivotal for fostering sustainable growth and ensuring economic resilience

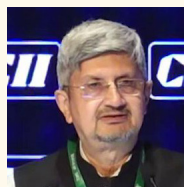
Dr V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to Government of India



The AI race has just begun, and the race in technology is rarely won by the first mover. So it's important that India builds its own foundational models. What we did in Digital

Public Infrastructure, using open-source tools, open API, and globally interoperable models, will be the way forward for us.

Amitabh Kant, then India's G20 Sherpa



Operation Sindoor has shown the importance of technology in fighting future wars. Technological changes are galloping and one cannot afford to tackle future threats

with past technology. R&D within the Country is required to stand strong and lead from the front.

Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence (R&D) and Chairman, DRDO



I think it is time to speak about Industry-MSME collaboration. Through vendor development programs, transfer of technologies, and integration of MSEs in the

supply chain, we will create an opportunity that is a win-win situation for players on both sides, as MSMEs get an opportunity to grow and industry gets an opportunity to source their requirements domestically with emphasis on Atmanirbhar Bharat and a Viksit Bharat.

Dr Rajneesh, Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner



The relationship between agriculture and climate change is two-way. And in other sectors, it is the only way. There are emissions in agriculture, and climate change also affects

the performance of agriculture. The emissions in agriculture are invisible, which is not prevalent in other sectors.

Prof Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog



Empowering medium and small firms with targeted skill development is essential. These firms form the backbone of manufacturing and innovation, and upskilling their workforce

will drive productivity, foster entrepreneurship, and create inclusive growth across the sector.

BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog



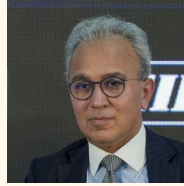
India is laying the groundwork for a personalised healthcare ecosystem through the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, which enables longitudinal health records and interoperability. Coupled with advancements in AI, economics, and wearable tech, the country is well-positioned to go beyond conventional models towards data-driven, individualised care.

Sanjiv Puri, then President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd



Circular economy is the new sunrise sector of today. It is important to develop a mindset across business, government, and society that considers not only the opportunities in a changing economy but also the potential risks. Circular economy for India represents a new opportunity.

R Mukundan, then Vice President, CII and Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd



The Indian Economy has been one of the fastest-growing economies, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. We are living in an uncertain global environment, and India is keen on building global economic partnerships. As we look at Viksit Bharat's framework, we need to boost second-generation reforms, such as the ease of doing business and the importance of the manufacturing sector in increasing the domestic economy.

Rajiv Memani, then President Designate, CII and Chairman & CEO, EY India



As we focus on Building Trust – India First, the healthcare for Viksit Bharat 2047 is an integral part of this vision. The visionary achievements of India in healthcare and the health ecosystem have helped us establish a global leadership in this entire arena.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII



(L-R) : Sagar Khandre, Member of Lok Sabha (INC); Sujeet Kumar, Member of Rajya Sabha (BJP); Rajiv Memani; R Mukundan; Malvika Devi, Member of Lok Sabha (BJP); Iqra Choudhary, Member of Lok Sabha (SP); Pushpendra Saroj, Member of Lok Sabha (SP) at the session on Reimagining India: Dialogue with Young Leaders

The Work of Grassroots Women is Shaping India: Annpurna Devi, Minister of Women and Child Development

"These grassroots women have emerged out of small villages, overcome many challenges to emerge as champions of change and are shaping India" said Smt Annpurna Devi, Minister of Women and Child Development, as she presented the CII Woman Exemplar Award 2025 to the winners at the session on 'Women Leading the Charge for Social Change: CII Woman Exemplar Awards' at the CII Annual General Meeting and the Annual Business Summit 2025 today.

The status of women is a key indicator of a country's progress she said, adding that women are progressing and present in diverse areas of work whether it is aviation, research, or mining. She mentioned several Government initiatives such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to support women, emphasizing the Government's vision of women-led development. Women play a pivotal role in realising the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, she stressed. Appreciating the role of industry in supporting and promoting women, she urged everyone to step forward to support women to meet India's goal of being 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

The CII Woman Exemplar Award honours grassroots women leaders from rural and underserved communities who have overcome deep-rooted social and economic barriers to drive transformative change. This year, a new award category—Community Strengthening—has been introduced to honour women who are fostering stronger, more resilient communities through a range of initiatives. The existing award categories—Health, Education, and Micro- enterprise—remain integral to the program.

Alamelu V from Salem, Tamil Nadu, received the award in the Community Strengthening category; Farheen Hussain from Mewat, Haryana, in the Health category; Varsha Ankush Patil from Kolhapur, Maharashtra, in the Education category; and Narmada Jha from Madhubani, Bihar, in the Micro-enterprise category. Each winner received a trophy, a certificate, and a cash prize of ₹3 lakh. Over 400 nominations were received for this Award, and an eminent jury selected the finalists based on their impact, leadership, and potential to scale change.

Appreciating the determination and resilience of the woman exemplars who have emerged as community leaders despite their challenges, Mr Sanjiv Puri, President, CII, said, "These women represent the spirit of India that never gives up."

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, said that CII has been recognising grassroots women leaders since 2005. He mentioned that the women have done tremendous work to drive social change and are capable of doing so much more with the right support.

These woman exemplars are now part of a powerful national network of over 150+ woman exemplars, each contributing to significant social change in their communities and positively impacting over 2 million lives annually. The CII Foundation continues to support the exemplars through a range of initiatives to build their capacity for greater social impact.



Annpurna Devi, Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India, Sanjiv Puri and Chandrajit Banerjee with the winners of the CII Woman Exemplar Awards

Manufacturing a Superpower

A country that can make its own weapons and defend its people without external support can claim to be a true powerhouse. At a time of heightened geopolitical risks, Indian Industry, Government, and academia must come together to support self-reliance, says Chandrajit Banerjee



With the success of Operation Sindoor, India has established itself as a military power capable of defending its people without external support. This is the result of not just the Government's strategic interventions and the valour of our armed forces, but also our economic ascendancy and domestic industrial excellence.

With a "focused, measured and non-escalatory" approach, the operation neutralised imminent threats while avoiding civilian casualties. India's defence systems intercepted most aerial threats and showcased our technological edge and operational preparedness to the world.

India's ascent as a global power is closely intertwined with its pursuit of defence self-reliance. The ongoing transformation in the sector is a quiet revolution that positions the country as a formidable global player in military manufacturing. Defence exports in 2024-25 reached ₹23,622 crore, a remarkable 34-fold increase over ₹686 crore in 2013-14. This exponential growth is the outcome of sustained policy initiatives under the twin pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India, including production-linked incentives and targeted investment support.

Domestic defence manufacturers are increasingly meeting the evolving requirements of our armed forces. The inauguration of the BrahMos Aerospace Integration and Testing Facility in Lucknow, with an annual production capacity of up to 100 missiles, highlights our growing competitiveness. This manufacturing surge has enhanced national security and transformed defence public sector units into lucrative investment opportunities, delivering robust outcomes.

For the sector to go to the next level, Industry must come together and plan ahead. Collaboration among public and private sector companies, including startups, and academia is essential to drive innovation, scale up production, and develop advanced indigenous capabilities. This collective effort reduces our dependence on imported hardware, strengthens national security and ensures the armed forces are equipped to swiftly respond to emerging threats. Achieving strategic objectives while reducing our dependence on imported military hardware is vital given our complex geopolitical environment. The Government's 15- year defence modernisation roadmap, backed by a \$160-200 billion business pipeline over the next five years, creates unparalleled opportunities for growing domestic Industry.

Key reforms, including positive indigenisation lists and a mandate reserving 75 percent of capital acquisitions for local suppliers, are driving a paradigm shift towards indigenous manufacturing. Initiatives—like the Defence Industry Corridors, Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme, relaxed foreign investment norms, and the iDEX, which, as of this February, has engaged with 619 startups and smaller enterprises, addressing 549 problem statements and resulting in 430 signed contracts—will foster innovation and private sector participation. Today, private sector companies are manufacturing and exporting advanced weapon platforms, systems, and sub-systems. Encouraged by the impetus provided by the Government, many of them are investing in developing technology and enhancing capacity.

With the Government declaring 2025 the year of defence reform, collaboration between Industry, academia, and



armed forces is shaping a secure, self-reliant future for India that reflects its strategic ambitions.

On the economic front, India continues to display remarkable resilience amid global uncertainties. April 2025 saw merchandise exports surge 9 percent to \$38.49 billion, driven by advanced sectors such as electronics and engineering. Services exports rose to \$35.31 billion, reflecting robust international demand. Domestic indicators, too, underscore growing consumer confidence and proactive policy support.

To propel the country's growth in the face of global uncertainties, a cohesive approach among businesses, investors, and policymakers is essential to safeguard supply chains, diversify markets, and boost domestic production. By fostering innovation, enhancing competitiveness, and embracing sustainability, Industry can help build a resilient economy that supports national security objectives while creating jobs and driving exports.

Strategic reshaping of trade and supply chains underscores India's commitment to safeguarding long-term national interests. Economic strength is inseparable from national security, with a stable and secure environment underpinning sustained growth. India's resilient macroeconomic fundamentals and diversified trade portfolio have minimised the regional conflict's economic impact. Bilateral trade

negotiations and agreements including the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, free trade agreements with Australia and the UK, and the ongoing talks with the EU and the US, aim to deepen market access, strengthen value chains, and consolidate India's position as a reliable global trade partner. Most importantly, considering recent geopolitical developments and support extended to adversarial entities by some countries, Indian Industry must exercise prudence. Investments or collaborations should be carefully scrutinised to ensure they don't indirectly benefit these countries. Aligning business engagements with the nation's strategic and ethical imperatives is essential.

Amid shifting global alliances, India maintains balanced and trusted relations with major powers and the Global South. Its stature as the world's largest democracy and a leading voice for the Global South enhances its credibility and influence in global governance. Operation Sindoor has underscored that India can play a strong role in fostering a more representative, credible and future-ready international order.

This article has been contributed by Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII and was first published in the New Indian Express on 20 June

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INDIA ACTED WITH STRENGTH & RESTRAINT: MINISTER

Rajnath Points to Punitive Strikes by Desi Weapons

Says Pak has realised that business of terror is not cost-effective

Manu Pubby

New Delhi: Homegrown weapon systems and growing capabilities of the domestic defence manufacturing sector gave India the strength to carry out wide punitive strikes across Pakistan, defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday. Praising the contribution of the private sector in defence manufacturing, the minister said the success of Operation Sindoor has shown that Make in India is an essential component of national security.



Have full confidence that citizens of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir will one day return to the Indian mainstream. Mnet of the nation

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Oil prices likely to stay around \$65 a barrel, says oil minister

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Minister for petroleum and natural gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said that crude oil prices are likely to stay near \$65 per barrel due to the ample supply of oil in the global market. Speaking at the CII Annual Business Summit 2025, the minister said that high production is weighing on the oil market. "There are enough supplies in the market. I see



Hardeep Singh Puri.

sedimentary basins, previously marked as 'no-go' zones, have now been opened for exploration, following which over 37% of bids under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) have come from these newly opened areas.

Stating that India will be one of the refining hubs, he said the trend was towards the emergence of teapot refineries. India's refining capacity is 290 million tonnes per annum (mt), which is expected to reach 309.5 mtpa by 2028, he

amid low global prices. The

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Centralised oversight needed to make tribunals more effective: CII

'Move may improve ease of doing business, enhance investors' confidence'

CYANENDRA KESRHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A centralised oversight mechanism is needed to improve efficiency and address the issues of the quasi-judicial bodies like National Company Law Tribunal, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal,



ing stakeholders including litigants and litigants," said Advocate Anurag, Managing Partner at Indo Law Consultancy LLP. Anurag, who specialises in corporate and insolvency related issues, said a centralised mechanism would help in proper coordination of resources, including the appointment of tribunal members and infrastructure. Originally envisioned as a complete overhaul of the conventional court system, the

'Rlys to Create Sandbox for Startups'

Vaishnav says policy in 2 mths; first made-in-India chip this year

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The Indian Railways is readying a policy to institute a sandbox to encourage start-ups, the railways, information and policy and innovation minister Ashwini Vaishnav said Thursday.

"Maybe in another two months from now, we'll have a new policy where any new innovative idea can be tried and tested at a small scale, in a sandbox environment, and then we can scale it up to a bigger level," he said. CII summit, the sandbox refers to a safe and



risk of regulatory penalties or legal repercussions are minimised. Vaishnav said this builds upon the experience gained from using start-ups in railway procurement. "The results have been very encouraging," he said, adding

the national transporter has been onboarding startups over the last one and a half years. The minister said India has reached "take-off point" in electronics manufacturing, with the first made-in-India chip to be rolled out this year.

"Manufacturing and services, both are equally important for the next level of growth," Vaishnav said, adding that the mindset required to become a "prosthesis" is already visible. Under the India AI Mission, government experts to add 14,000 more graphics processing units (GPU) to the common compute cluster, in addition to the 18,000 existing GPUs, Vaishnav said.

the pioneer

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Domestic efficiency must for economic growth: FM

PHS ■ KOLKATA

Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the most effective path for building economic resilience is to build domestic efficiencies and competitiveness.

The government sees the private sector as a trusted co-partner in development, she said while addressing the officers of Ministry of Corporate Affairs after inaugurating the 'Corporate Bhavan' in New Town here.

"In this phase of a rapidly evolving global policy landscape with a number of imperatives, our conviction is that the most effective path to building economic resilience is to build domestic efficiencies and competitiveness," the minister said.

Sitharaman further said that improving ease of doing business is a key component of the vision to ensure India becomes

a global economic powerhouse. She said that the government remains committed to simplifying business regulations to encourage entrepreneurship, strengthening institutions that promote fairness and accountability in corporate governance, and supporting a culture of innovation and skill development.

Sitharaman also stated that the country's regulatory framework works most only if safeguarded by good governance but also good corporate governance, enable enterprise, encourage formalisation, and build trust in the systems.

She further said that the Corporate Bhavan will become a true single-window interface for companies, investors, professionals, auditors, startups, investors seeking timely and regulatory services. The consolidation of services at the Corporate Bhavan will help significantly cut costs, and accelerate approval process, and improve operational efficiency

all of which will help enhance ease of doing business, she added. The Union Minister also said that the first ever 'Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) Facilitation Centre' is also located in the Corporate Bhavan, Kolkata. It will help the aspiring interns in getting the information and issues related to their internships, she said.

The seven-storey building has a built-up area of 15,234 square meters built at a cost of Rs 150.43 crore. It is designed with a focus on energy efficiency, waste recycling, smart parking, and the well-being of its occupants.

The MCA CII PMIS Centre, a collaborative initiative between Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), aims to connect eligible youth (aged 21-24) with internship opportunities offered by participating companies.

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CII seeks early GST rate rationalisation in meeting with FM

PRASANTA SAHU
New Delhi, May 27

AHEAD OF THE goods and services tax (GST) council meeting, industry body CII on Tuesday sought early conclusion of the rate rationalisation process in a meeting with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, sources said.

In the meeting on further GST reforms, the industry body also suggested submitting all petroleum products under GST, relaxations in input tax credit to ease working capital issues and streamlining of audit processes, sources said.

The GST Council may meet in June or July with an agenda to discuss the much-awaited rate rationalisation, simplification and the future of compensation cess. The Council, chaired by finance minister, will examine the report of ministers (GoM) report on rate rationalisation to give further relief to people through rate reductions and relief of the number of slabs. The GoM headed by Bihar deputy chief minister Samrat Choudhary submitted its report on December 2024.

On the table would also be a proposal to reduce the health and life insurance tax rate to 5% from 18%

while retaining the input tax credit. The inclusion of petroleum products under the GST regime is a complex issue with potential benefits and drawbacks. While industry advocates for bringing these products under GST to simplify the tax process and potentially reduce prices, governments have concerns over revenue implications.

Fintech enabling service for MSMEs: F

Sitharaman said innovative fintech companies have seamless, secure and inclusive services for merchants. MSMEs, during her visit to PINE Labs, a Noida-based fintech firm, she acknowledged the digital push structure.

Edu, mfg key to India's growth: Niti CEO

Grover, Chandrababu Naidu
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NEW DELHI

India needs to transform its education, energy capacity and manufacturing and infrastructure to become a \$20 trillion economy by 2047, Niti Aayog CEO Grover said on Thursday.

Speaking at the annual summit of the Confederation of Indian Industry, Sitharaman said that every state and union territory must have a development plan for 2047 to ensure the nation's growth.

To become a developed nation, the population growth rate in India will have to be controlled, he said. "The first transformation needed is from rural to urban. The level of urbanisation is one-third of the world's. We are one-third of the world's population. We are one-third of the world's GDP. We are one-third of the world's innovation. We are one-third of the world's infrastructure. We are one-third of the world's education. We are one-third of the world's energy. We are one-third of the world's manufacturing. We are one-third of the world's services. We are one-third of the world's digital. We are one-third of the world's space. We are one-third of the world's artificial intelligence. We are one-third of the world's quantum computing. We are one-third of the world's biotechnology. We are one-third of the world's nanotechnology. We are one-third of the world's materials science. We are one-third of the world's medicine. We are one-third of the world's agriculture. 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Engaging with the World

LAC

Members' Interaction with President of Paraguay

An exclusive interaction with H.E. Mr Santiago Peña Palacios, President of Paraguay, was held on 2 June in New Delhi to discuss Paraguay's evolving economic landscape, investment opportunities, and avenues for



(L-R): Naveen Jindal, Chairman, Jindal Steel & Power Limited and Member of Parliament; Santiago Peña Palacios, President of the Republic of Paraguay; Jai Shroff, Chairman, CII National Committee on Latin America & the Caribbean and Chairman & Group CEO, UPL Ltd and Dr Rajesh Jain, Managing Director, Panacea Biotech Ltd at the exclusive interaction in New Delhi

India-Paraguay business collaboration. President Peña was accompanied by H.E. Mr Javier Giménez García de Zúñiga, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Republic of Paraguay and H.E. Ambassador Rubén Darío Ramírez Lezcano, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Paraguay, along with a high-level delegation of senior Paraguayan officials. President Peña outlined Paraguay's remarkable evolution over the last four decades from a relatively isolated nation to a steadily growing, investment-attractive economy. He identified agriculture, energy, and infrastructure as key sectors propelling growth, strengthened by increased public-private collaboration. He highlighted Paraguay's strategic geographic location in the heart of South America, its abundant arable land, and extensive river network, positioning the country as a regional trade hub.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on Paraguay's strategic vision to modernise its riverine infrastructure. President Peña shared plans to adopt advanced cargo transport technologies that could enhance the country's navigable river systems and

increase transport capacity fivefold. This development aims to boost trade efficiency and position Paraguay as a key logistics corridor in the region.

The President highlighted Paraguay's simplified and transparent tax framework, known as the "10-10-10" regime, a system comprising a flat 10 per cent rate for corporate income tax, value-added tax (VAT), and personal income tax. This uniform tax policy, he noted, has been instrumental in attracting foreign investment and fostering a stable, business friendly environment. Monetary stability was highlighted as another key strength of the Paraguayan economy. He also emphasised Paraguay's demographic advantage, with nearly 70 per cent of its population under the age of 40. He described the country's young and motivated workforce as a critical asset and stressed the need for skill development, vocational training, and financial inclusion to unlock its full potential.

During the interaction, President Peña engaged with prominent Indian business leaders to explore avenues for bilateral cooperation. Dr Rajesh Jain, Managing Director, Panacea Biotech Ltd, discussed the progress of India's first indigenous dengue vaccine, DengiAll, developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research. The vaccine is currently undergoing Phase 3 clinical trials across 19 sites in India, involving over 10,000 adult participants. Dr Jain expressed optimism about launching the vaccine within the next two to three years, pending regulatory approvals.

Mr Naveen Jindal, Chairman, Jindal Steel & Power Ltd and Member of Parliament, explored opportunities in the steel manufacturing sector. The exchange focused on understanding Paraguay's industrial landscape and evaluating potential avenues for collaboration within the steel value chain, with an eye on establishing future investment platforms aligned with Paraguay's development priorities.

Mr Jai Shroff, Chairman, CII National Committee on Latin America & the Caribbean and Chairman & Group CEO, UPL Ltd deliberated on enhancing agricultural partnerships. Discussions centred around sustainable farming practices, innovation led productivity, and technology transfer mechanisms that could align Paraguay's agricultural strengths with India's expertise in agri-tech solutions.

President Peña extended an invitation to Indian companies to view Paraguay as a strategic base for manufacturing and exports to Latin America. He emphasised strong investment incentives such as zero import tariffs on capital goods, a simplified regulatory environment, and the potential for public-private partnerships in key sectors.

AFRICA

Exploring India–Angola Business Opportunities

During the official India visit of H.E. Mr João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, CII organized the India–Angola Business Forum in New Delhi on 4 May. The forum served as a dynamic platform to foster a strategic, structured, and mutually beneficial economic partnership between India and Angola.

President Lourenço emphasised Angola’s commitment to deepening its economic engagement with India. Highlighting the bilateral agreements in health, energy, financial services, and diplomatic cooperation, he positioned Angola as a strategic logistics and industrial hub in Africa, made possible by its access to the Southern African Development Community and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

“We invite Indian entrepreneurs to explore Angola’s logistics and infrastructure advancements, such as

the Lobito Corridor, which opens new possibilities for regional value chains across Africa,” the President said. He outlined key sectors for collaboration, including pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and renewable energy, and expressed admiration for India’s technological excellence, innovation, and dynamic business ecosystem.

Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, noted India’s increasing global investment role. “Looking ahead, there are several priority sectors where we can deepen collaboration. In the energy sector, we can develop oil and gas infrastructure and partner on clean energy. In the field of education and skilling, India can play an important role through high-tech training and increased scholarships,” he said.

Mr Sanjiv Puri, (then) President, CII and CMD, ITC Ltd, reinforced the importance of the bilateral economic relationship. He said that Angola’s position as Africa’s third-largest diamond producer, coupled with its rich reserves of critical minerals, opens avenues for joint ventures in diamond processing, mining, and supply chains for renewable energy and electric vehicle manufacturing.

The forum also featured a high-level panel discussion involving senior business leaders from both countries. Discussions focused on sectoral cooperation in agriculture & food processing, oil & gas, pharmaceuticals & medical equipment, mining & chemicals, education & skill development, green energy & power, and trade & investment.



(L-R): Sanjiv Puri, Past President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC; Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India; Clemente Pedro Francisco Camenha, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to India; João Lourenço, President, Republic of Angola; Ana Dias Lourenço, First Lady of Angola; José de Lima Massano, Minister of State for Economic Coordinator, Republic of Angola; Sevala Naik Mude, Additional Secretary [C & WA], Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Arlindo das Chagas Rangel, President of the Board, AIPEX, at the CII India–Angola Business Forum in New Delhi



Space

Space Delegation Meet with NITI Aayog

Recognising the critical role of space in defence, a Sub-Committee on Space Applications for Defence, through extensive deliberations, developed a whitepaper outlining key recommendations to advance Industry-Government collaboration, facilitate indigenous manufacturing, and strengthen India's position in the global space defence landscape. To take these efforts forward, select members of the CII National Committee on Space met Dr VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, on 19 May in New Delhi.

The delegation was led by Mr Rohan Ganapathy, Co-Chairman, National Committee on Space and CEO & CTO, Bellatrix Aerospace.

The key recommendations included:

- Establishment of a Space Defence Procurement Cell (SDPC), a single-window agency under the Ministry of Defence for demand creation, contracting, and procurement of space-based defence assets, with a fast-track approval mechanism with the representatives of the private sector on board
- Integration of Space Assets in the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP-2020) for defence space systems to be introduced with impetus on fast-track procurement mechanisms for strategic satellite programs and ISR applications
- Expansion of Make-I & Make-II categories to include space startups and MSMEs. Long-term

contract allocations for private firms developing space-based solutions can also be enabled along with the implementation of hybrid funding models (Government + Private) to promote commercial R&D

- Defence Space Agency can consider encouraging public sector as well as private sector participation by providing clarity on the specific demands that each sector can address
- Update the SCOMET list released by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade to include space equipment and technologies for export from India
- A single-window route under the Defence Space Committee for imports, the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, can streamline the import process. One-off import exceptions can be created to offset the unavailability of materials or testing facilities, etc. and to ensure the product is delivered on time and by passing all the required reviews and testing
- Launch of a Government-backed Space-Defence Innovation fund of INR 10,000 crore to accelerate private investments in defence space technologies
- Public-Private Partnership Framework for Satellite, ISR Programs, small satellite constellations, cyberspace security, and ISR assets can be developed.
- Commit annual procurement targets from private space firms in ISR, communication, and PNT (Position, Navigation, and Timing) technologies
- Formation of a Space Defence Committee, a joint working group including the Ministry of Defence, IN-SPACe, ISRO, DRDO, NSIL, Department of Telecommunication, Government of India, and private sector representatives. It may also consider



CII Members with Dr VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog at a Meeting in New Delhi

quarterly reviews of space-defence procurement and policy effectiveness

- Establishment of a single-window clearance system for space-defence startups. Revision of FDI policies can be considered to allow up to 100 per cent investment in strategic defence space startups
- Space Strategy Document for the defence services by the Ministry of Defence to outline the capabilities and technology needed in the future. This will help all stakeholders to align their R&D, production, etc., with the strategic vision and objectives
- As space technology is capital-intensive, it should not happen that the contracts are not awarded to Indian companies. A definition of 'Indian company' can be formulated.

Dr VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, suggested the development of a detailed paper on the proposed Space Defence Agency under the aegis of NITI Aayog. He believed this initiative would significantly enhance national security and encourage increased involvement of the private sector in the development of space-based defence technologies. Additionally, to raise awareness about SpaceTech in defence, it was proposed to organize workshops and site visits, enabling private space companies in India to showcase their technologies and product offerings.



Energy

Revolutionising Metering Solutions for Smart Distribution System

India's power distribution sector is witnessing a major shift with the large-scale deployment of smart metering infrastructure. As part of one of the country's most ambitious digital initiatives, over 19 crore smart meters have been sanctioned, 11.4 crore awarded, and 2.43 crore installed. This reflects the Government of India's



(L-R): Vivek Goel, Chief Engineer, Central Electricity Authority; Pushpendrasinh Zala, CEO - Smart Metering, Adani Energy Solutions Ltd; Alok Kumar, Former Secretary, Ministry of Power and Director General, All India Discoms Association and Dr Suket Singhal, Chairman, CII National Task Force on Smart Metering and Group CEO, Secure Meters at the 3rd CII Conference on Smart Metering titled Revolutionizing Metering Solutions for Smart Distribution System in New Delhi

strong commitment to modernising the sector by enhancing billing efficiency, reducing losses, supporting renewable integration, and enabling real-time monitoring and consumer empowerment.

The third edition of the CII Conference on Smart Metering, themed 'Revolutionising Metering Solutions for Smart Distribution System', was held on 6 May in New Delhi. The event brought together key stakeholders, including policymakers, technology experts, and regulators, to evaluate progress, share best practices, and address implementation challenges.

The summit explored data-driven solutions, cybersecurity, policy alignment, and utility coordination. Through focused discussions, the conference contributed to accelerating smart meter adoption and strengthening the foundation of a reliable, efficient, and consumer-centric power distribution ecosystem.

It featured high-level thematic sessions that explored the evolving technological, regulatory, and financial ecosystem of smart metering in India. Discussions spanned across strategic domains such as grid optimisation, cybersecurity, cross-utility collaboration, and investment models to accelerate the rollout of advanced metering infrastructure and build a resilient, consumer-centric power distribution framework.

Shri Shashank Mishra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, said, "We've jumped from 15,000 to over a lakh meter installations per day. But installation is just step one; data analytics, consumer awareness, and use-case-



(L-R): Arun Sharma, Chairman, CII Sub-Group on Transmission and CEO, Sterlite Power; Dr. Suket Singhal, Chairman, CII National Task Force on Smart Metering; Group CEO, Secure Meters; Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairman, Central Electricity Authority (CEA); Shashank Mishra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power and Sameer Gupta, Chairman, CII National Taskforce on RE Manufacturing and Chairman and Managing Director, Jakson Group

driven insights are the next leap.” Speakers highlighted the massive economic opportunity embedded in India’s smart metering rollout under the RDSS.

Panellists called for quantifying the broader benefits of smart metering to include theft reduction, demand-side management, asset monitoring, and energy auditing. The importance of cybersecurity under the DPDP Act, structured staff training, stronger consumer engagement, and adherence to SBD guidelines were underlined. A call was made to build consumer trust through postpaid pilots, prepayment incentives, and champion-based awareness campaigns.

Dr Suket Singhal, Chairman, CII National Core Group on Smart Metering and Group CEO, Secure Meters, said that smart metering is not just a technology upgrade; it’s a significant investment opportunity for India. But to make it successful, we must prove its value, demonstrate clear consumer benefits and make prepayment intuitive.

Mr Sameer Gupta, Chairman, CII National Taskforce on RE Manufacturing and Chairman and Managing Director, Jakson Group, noted that smart metering is more than just tech, it’s a national mission. We must accelerate deployment, ensure cybersecurity, and work together to create a smart, secure, and sustainable power future for India.

Shri Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairman, Central Electricity Authority; Shri Sachin Rana, Member, Delhi Jal Board; Mr Arun Sharma, Chairman, CII Sub-Group on Transmission and CEO, Sterlite Power; Mr Alok Kumar, Former Secretary, Ministry of Power and Director General, All India Discoms Association and Mr Pushpendrasinh Zala, CEO – Smart Metering, Adani Energy Solutions Ltd were among the other key speakers.

Key Takeaways:

- **Make Smart Metering Politically and Publicly Acceptable:** Bridge the trust gap through pilot rollouts, postpaid-first strategies, and high-impact consumer awareness campaigns backed by quantified success metrics
- **Go Beyond AT&C Loss Reduction:** Promote the broader advantages of smart metering – real-time fault detection, outage management, energy auditing, asset tracking, load forecasting, and consumer empowerment
- **Quantify and Disseminate Benefits:** Develop and share data-backed business cases for discoms and consumers, highlighting financial gains, reliability improvements, and service quality enhancements
- **Standardisation for Scale:** Finalise national protocols for communication modules, Head End Systems (HES), and Meter Data Management (MDM) to support a seamless, multi-vendor smart metering ecosystem
- **Reclassify Smart Metering as Infrastructure:** Position smart metering under the infrastructure category to reduce financing costs, attract long-term capital, and enable wider private sector participation
- **Accelerate Daily Installations:** With smart meter penetration below 10 per cent, India must target over 2 lakh installations per day. Field-level execution and consumer engagement are critical to meet this target
- **Cybersecurity by Design:** Embed security into hardware and software from the outset. Align with DPDP Act requirements and implement continuous monitoring and intrusion detection protocols.

- **Unified Implementation Frameworks:** Develop standardised operating procedures across states to avoid rollout inconsistencies. Ensure alignment between DISCOMs, AMISPs, and regulators
- **Data-Driven Grid Intelligence:** Use smart meters for predictive maintenance, outage management, demand forecasting, and real-time grid analytics to improve operational resilience
- **Consumer-Centric Energy Models:** Leverage smart meters for dynamic pricing, personalised energy dashboards, and two-way energy interactions to empower users and improve satisfaction
- **Secure Procurement Practices:** Mandate cybersecurity clauses and SLAs in procurement contracts. Ensure cloud infrastructure, firmware updates, and data governance are compliant and robust
- **Cross-Utility Integration:** Encourage collaboration among electricity, gas, water, and telecom utilities. Shared infrastructure and platforms will improve cost-efficiency and service delivery.
- **Policy and Regulatory Engagement:** Involve State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and the Forum of Regulators in developing consumer tariffs, service standards, and future use cases
- **Replication of Successful Models:** Adopt and adapt best practices from successful deployments like Bihar, Indore, and international cases such as TEPCO for wider national rollouts
- **Manufacturing Viability Through Speed:** Smart metering depends on rapid execution to support working capital cycles. Delays in rollout jeopardise software and hardware investment recovery.



Waste to Worth

India-Singapore Partnerships on Waste to Worth

CII led the annual mission on Waste-to-Worth Technologies to Singapore from 19-23 May. The objective of the mission was to strengthen bilateral collaboration on waste to worth technologies, promote joint research, expand trade relations, tech transfer, and investment.

The mission was chaired by Mr Masood Mallick, Chairman, CII National Committee on Waste-to-Worth Technologies and MD & CEO, Re Sustainability and Co-Chaired by Mr Prashant Singh, CEO, Blue Planet Environmental Solutions and Vice-Chairman, CII National Committee on Waste-to-Worth Technologies.

It comprised representatives from Industry, academic institutions, startups, and research labs. It provided networking and cross learning opportunities leaders from corporate and the academia.

The mission members learnt about various advanced technologies for waste-to-energy conversion by visiting incineration plants. The members also visited the waste management and recycling association in Singapore.

Members also met HE Dr Shilpak Ambule, High Commissioner of India to Singapore to explore potential areas of collaboration between businesses, research and academic institutions of India and Singapore. A special discussion was held with select mission members and the National Environment Agency (NEA), Singapore.



Mission Members with Dr Shilpak Ambule, High Commissioner of India to Singapore

Portfolio for Excellence



CIES

Startups to Scaleup: From Indian Roots to Global Wings

As part of the CII Annual Business Summit, held in New Delhi on 29-30 May, a session titled 'Startups to Scaleup: From Indian Roots to Global Wings' was organized to bring together India's most dynamic startup founders, innovators, and ecosystem leaders to explore how Indian startups are charting their global journeys.

Anchored in this year's summit theme, 'Building Trust – India First', the session spotlighted how India's startup ecosystem is shaping resilient, tech-driven global value chains. In an era of shifting trade corridors and rising demand for trusted innovation partners, Indian startups are fast emerging as catalysts of global transformation.

Moderated by Mr Rahul Garg, Co-Chairman, CII Unicorn forum and Founder, Moglix, the session featured an expert panel, including Mr Suhel Seth, Founder & Managing Partner, Counselage India; Ms Nimisha Vadakkan, MD, Radiant Acemoney; Ms Vrinda Kapoor, Co-founder & CEO, 3rdiTech; Mr Siddhartha Nihalani, Co-Founder, Practo; Dr Subi Chaturvedi, Global SVP, InMobi; Mr Paavan Nanda, CEO & Co-founder, WinZo

Games; and Mr Rajat Verma, Founder & CEO, Lohum Cleantech Pvt Ltd.

Panellists noted that Indian startups are no longer just solving domestic challenges; they are setting global benchmarks in trust, compliance, and innovation. The importance of IP protection, quality assurance, and purposeful branding was highlighted as critical to building globally competitive ventures.



CESD

Highlighting Industry's Role in Building a Circular Economy in India

The World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF), a global initiative of Finland and Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund, was held in São Paulo, Brazil, from 13 to 17 May. At its first-ever edition in South America, WCEF 2025 delved into the advantages of circular solutions, facilitating targeted discussions around business, governance, finance, innovation, people and education – the key enablers that drive the circular transition.

CII virtually hosted an Accelerator Session on 'Building an Industrial Circular Economy in India' on 15 May at



(L-R): Rajat Verma, Founder & CEO, Lohum Cleantech Pvt Ltd; Dr. Subi Chaturvedi, Global SVP, InMobi; Nimisha Vadakkan, Managing Director, Radiant Acemoney; Suhel Seth, Founder & Managing Partner, Counselage India; Rahul Garg, Co-Chairman, CII Unicorn forum & Founder, Moglix; Vrinda Kapoor, Co-founder & CEO, 3rdiTech; Paavan Nanda, CEO & Co-founder, WinZo Games and Siddhartha Nihalani, Co-founder, Practo at the session on "Startups to Scaleup: From Indian Roots to Global Wings" at the CII Annual Business Summit in New Delhi



R Mukundan, President Designate, CII and Managing Director, CEO of Tata Chemicals Ltd addressing participants at CII's Accelerator Session during WCEF 2025

WCEF 2025. The session aimed to highlight Indian Industry's action to achieve a circular economy and provide a better understanding of the barriers and opportunities in adopting and practising circular economy in the Global South. The session opened with remarks from Mr R Mukundan, (then) Vice President, CII and MD & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd, who shared how Indian Industry is steering the circular economy transition.

The deliberations focused on how circularity is being embedded through internal alignment, efficient operations, and design innovation. While current efforts on circularity are fragmented, there is need for coordinated action across value chains to scale up action and create widespread impact. The panel highlighted the importance of metrics and the need for upstream policies, financing, and stakeholder collaboration to accelerate system-wide circular transitions.

The session also underscored India's growing commitment to circular economy principles and the Indian Industry's intent in supporting the Government of India's vision in this direction. Government efforts, including NITI Aayog's initiatives and the Extended

Producer Responsibility frameworks for different waste streams, were recognised as laying the foundation to this transition.

Global thought leaders and Indian Industry representatives were among the panel including Mr Ramnath Vaidyanathan, Associate Vice President, Godrej Good & Green, Godrej Industries Group; Mr Kshitin Nagarkar, Cloud Supply Chain, Circular Economy and Sustainability, Microsoft; Mr Yuvraj Sarda, Head – Strategy and Brand, Marketing and Communications, Head – E-Mobility Solutions, Volvo Construction Equipment; Mr Quentin Drewell, Senior Director, Circular Products and Materials and Member, WBCSD Extended Leadership Group; and Ms Carolina Fernández, International Partnerships Manager, WRAP and Ilmi Salminen Associate Expert, Division of Circular Economy and Green Industry, Circular Resource Efficiency Unit, UNIDO.

The next edition of WCEF in 2026 will be held in India, reflecting India's growing leadership in shaping circular economy strategies that address environmental sustainability while fostering economic growth.

Evolving Investment Expectations and ESG Disclosures

A stakeholder consultation on 'Aligning ESG Standards with Investment Expectations' was organized by the CII Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CII CESD) recently in Mumbai. The session saw participation from 20 institutional investors, including banks, asset managers, insurers, and private equity firms. The session focused on aligning India's Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) with evolving investment expectations.



Participants at the Stakeholder Consultation on 'Aligning ESG Standards with Investment Expectations' in Mumbai

The in-person consultation served as a platform for representatives of leading financial institutions to share perspectives on improving the relevance and effectiveness of ESG disclosures. Discussions centred on a comparative mapping of BRSR, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and Sustainability Disclosure Standards across fifteen priority sectors, highlighting existing gaps within India's ESG disclosure landscape and assessing areas for improvement.

Investors welcomed the initiative to align BRSR with global standards, noting that such alignment can enhance the comparability, credibility, and decision-usefulness of ESG data. They underscored the need for sector-specific disclosures that reflect material risks relevant to each industry. Key recommendations included establishing robust strategies for managing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting circularity across product portfolios, and strengthening focus on community rights and stakeholder engagement.

Aligning Business with Sustainability

The CII Mysuru ESG Conference and Expo, held recently, was jointly organized by the CII CESD and the CII Mysuru office. The conference, held around the theme of 'Driving Sustainable Transformation: Aligning Business with Sustainability', served as a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and practical engagement on ESG integration.

Through this collaboration, CESD showcased its comprehensive suite of ESG services designed to help businesses embed sustainability across their operations and value chains. Each offering was illustrated through real-world case studies, providing attendees with practical examples of how CII CESD's tools and solutions have driven meaningful change within organisations.

The session served as an important forum for demonstrating the tangible benefits of integrating ESG principles, ranging from improved risk management to enhanced stakeholder trust and long term value creation.

Diving Sustainable Procurement

CII CESD organized a capacity-building session on 'Enabling Sustainable Procurement' virtually on 15 May. The session brought together professionals from diverse sectors, including financial services, railway infrastructure, manufacturing, building materials, automotive components, airport transportation, waste management, and resource recovery. Participants represented functions across procurement, supply chain management, ESG, sustainability, quality, operations, and corporate communications.

The session was led by CESD experts, who addressed participant queries and provided insights into the practical aspects of implementing sustainable procurement.

The session explored the importance of sustainable procurement, the key drivers behind its adoption, and its critical role in building resilient and responsible supply chains. Participants learned practical strategies to improve procurement processes through case studies that demonstrated real-world applications and successes. CII CESD also shared about Eco Edge and emphasised the programme's role in promoting sustainable procurement and enhancing sustainability across value chains.

Training on BRSR Core Reporting Standard

CII CESD organized a training session on India's evolving ESG disclosure framework, particularly the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) and the BRSR Core Reporting Standard, on 22 April in New Delhi. The session brought together 16 sustainability



Participants of the BRSR Core Reporting Standard Training Session in New Delhi



training focused on key aspects of effective waste management, including recent amendments to Waste Management Rules, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) provisions; best practices in waste management; and case studies showcasing the successful implementation of waste management strategies across industries.

professionals from sectors, including telecom, cement, automobile, oil & gas, energy, and banking. Participants engaged in meaningful cross-sectoral exchange and shared emerging practices in ESG reporting.

The session included an overview of the ESG reporting landscape in India and a detailed explanation of the structure of the BRSR Core Reporting Standard (Part A and Part B). The discussion also addressed some sector-specific challenges and how companies may address these.

A case study was presented by Ms Vidhi Thukral, Chief Manager – ESG, Max Life Insurance, outlining her organization's BRSR journey – from initial steps to integrating sustainability into operations and disclosures. She shared practical insights and highlighted solutions to some common challenges, such as data gaps and inter-departmental coordination.

Training on Waste Management Rules

CII CESD conducted a certified training programme on 'Waste Management Rules and Their Amendments' on 21-23 May. The comprehensive three-day virtual

level professionals from diverse sectors, including manufacturing and services, participated in the programme, actively engaging in knowledge sharing sessions and practical learning modules.

Sustainability Assessors Training Programme

The 20th batch of the CII Certified Sustainability Assessors Training Programme was organized in New Delhi on 19-22 May. Around 23 experienced professionals from sectors such as energy, automotive, power, consumer products, and others, participated.

The programme not only helps participants gain knowledge on diverse topics of sustainability but also helps them to gain sectoral exposure while doing assessments. The sessions were led by domain experts covering 16 aspects of sustainability, such as sustainable business frameworks, sustainable strategies, governance, and environmental and social aspects.

As part of the training, seasoned CII assessors were also invited to share their insights and experiences on their journey as sustainability professionals.



Participants of the 20th batch of CII-Certified Sustainability Assessors Training Programme in New Delhi

Supporting Organisations



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Regional Review



EASTERN REGION

MCED Summit

CII organized its Annual Mining and Construction Equipment Summit on 19 May in New Delhi around the theme 'Redefining Boundaries: Innovating a Sustainable Future'. The summit brought together a distinguished gathering of Industry leaders, international stakeholders, and policymakers, promoting meaningful dialogue and collaboration. It aimed to develop a roadmap for the mining and construction equipment sector, focusing on sustainability, technological advancement, policy transformation, and global collaboration.

The deliberations pivoted towards carbon reduction technologies, the role of digitalisation, and India's readiness to responsibly harness its critical mineral reserves. The event connected India's industrial might with its climate goals and global trade ambitions, offering a compelling vision of a sector ready to transform and lead sustainably. A report on mining and construction equipment was unveiled, marking a unified vision for growth, innovation, and policy alignment within the sector.

Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, highlighted India's progress in modernising mining

operations, improving productivity, safety, and mechanisation, and emphasised the importance of policy reforms, including simplified licensing processes and increased FDI opportunities. He strongly advocated for domestic R&D, MSME empowerment, and environmentally responsible practices, affirming that India is well on track to becoming a globally competitive and green mining economy.

Industry CEOs highlighted pressing Industry concerns, including inconsistent demand visibility, high logistics costs, and the absence of a robust innovation culture. The conversation focused on aligning the ecosystem, from startups to academia, to build globally competitive manufacturing capabilities. Emphasis was placed on embracing digital tools, addressing workforce skilling, and localising technologies in line with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat mission. Industry leaders shared practical strategies to minimise environmental impact, including shifting to clean fuels, optimising haul logistics, and deploying carbon capture mechanisms.



(L-R): Manojit Haldar, Chairman, Western Region, CII Mining & Construction Equipment Division and Managing Director & President, Sandvik Mining and Rock Technology India Pvt Ltd; Stella Nkomo, Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe to India; Kenneth Félix Haczynski da Nóbrega, Ambassador of Brazil to India & Bhutan; Shantanu Roy, Chairman and Managing Director, BEML; Vivek Bhatia, Chairman, CII Mining and Construction Equipment Division & Managing Director & CEO, TKIL Industries Pvt Ltd; Debasish Nanda, Director of Business Development, Coal India Ltd; Ravi Todi, Chairman, Eastern Regional Council, CII Mining and Construction Equipment Division & Managing Director, BTL EPC Ltd and Sunil K Chaturvedi, Chairman and Managing Director, Gainwell Commosales Pvt Ltd at the MCED Summit in New Delhi

Insolvency Resolution: Emerging Trends & Innovation

CII Eastern Region organized the eighth edition of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Conclave in Kolkata on 10 May, around the theme 'The Future of Insolvency Resolution: Emerging Trends & Innovation in a Changing Economy'. The conclave aimed to discuss the evolution and potential of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) framework.

A roundtable discussion with members of the Kolkata Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) underscored the IBC's significance in fostering economic stability and contributing towards an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The importance of all stakeholders adhering to timelines and guidelines for effective resolution was stressed. While acknowledging the IBC as a relatively new framework requiring further optimisation, the NCLT Kolkata bench invited stakeholders to present any challenges for collaborative problem-solving.

The plenary sessions highlighted IBC's positive impact on credit discipline and its role in reviving defunct companies and creating jobs. Addressing the concern of resolution speed, panellists suggested leveraging AI for various stages of the process, from application admission to attracting bidders, and utilising data analytics for predicting insolvencies and assessing resolution plans. The potential of technology to enable faster and more informed decisions for judges and professionals was emphasised.

The role of IBC in significantly reducing the banking sector's Non-Performing Assets (NPA) ratio was also highlighted. However, the issue of rising lender haircuts due to resolution delays was acknowledged, emphasising the need for strict legal compliance.

Furthermore, the IBC's crucial role in attracting global investment was underscored, with panellists advocating for alignment with international norms and regulatory relaxations to boost FDI.

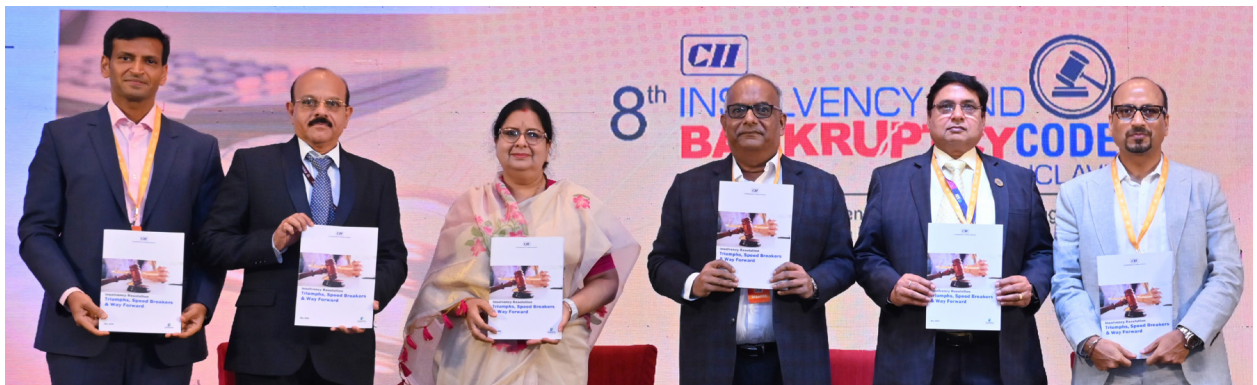
Roundtable with Singapore Economic Development Board

In a significant move to enhance bilateral trade and investment cooperation, the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), Singapore's lead Government agency for investment promotion and business development, engaged in a strategic roundtable discussion with the members of the CII West Bengal State Council in Kolkata on 23 May.

The discussion aimed to identify and explore new avenues for economic collaboration between Singapore and West Bengal. The roundtable brought together business leaders and stakeholders from key sectors to discuss potential frameworks for long-term cooperation.

During the discussion, Mr Manohar Khaitani, Special Advisor to the Chairman, Singapore EDB, shared Singapore's economic transformation journey and highlighted its strategic advantages as a global business hub. Emphasis was placed on how Indian companies, particularly from West Bengal, can leverage Singapore's dynamic business environment to expand their international footprint.

The EDB reiterated its commitment to support Indian enterprises by facilitating business development, market access, and investment partnerships. The agency emphasised the pivotal role of such collaborations in fostering stronger economic integration between the two nations. The session concluded with a shared commitment to maintain momentum through continued



(L-R): Samir Agarwal, Co-Chairman, CII ER Banking & Financial Services Subcommittee & Director, Indcap Advisors Pvt Ltd; Cheekati Radha Krishna, Judicial Member, NCLT Kolkata Bench; Bidisha Banerjee, Judicial Member, NCLT Kolkata Bench; Bijay Murmuria, Chairman, CII ER Banking & Financial Services Subcommittee and Director, Sumedha Fiscal Services Ltd; Arun Kumar Yadav, Chief General Manager – SARG, State Bank of India; Ratan Kumar Kesh, Co-Chairman, CII ER Banking & Financial Services Subcommittee and Executive Director, Chief Operating Officer, Bandhan Bank releasing a CII report at the 8th Annual Conference on Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code Conclave in Kolkata

dialogue, joint initiatives, and the identification of concrete projects that can deliver mutual benefits.

Digital Knowledge Session on GST

CII Odisha as a part of its ongoing membership services, organized a virtual knowledge session on GST for industries on 21 May, to share the latest regulatory changes and complexities under GST, specifically affecting MSMEs in Odisha. The virtual session was addressed by Mr Vivek Jalan, Member, Indirect Tax Core Group, CII Eastern Region and moderated by Mr Swayam Prakash Baral, Convener, Startup and Innovation, CII Odisha State Council .

The key topics covered were mandatory registration under the Input Service Distributor (ISD) mechanism, importance of accurate HSN code reporting in GST filings, emerging challenges and clarifications related to Input Tax Credit (ITC), Industry-specific GST issues and their operational impact, and a checklist of year-end GST dos and don'ts to ensure better compliance and readiness.

The session was highly relevant for MSMEs striving for GST compliance, helping them understand and navigate new regulatory expectations. Participants received practical solutions and clarifications to ongoing GST-related concerns, especially around ITC eligibility and documentation. The emphasis on HSN code accuracy and ISD compliance highlighted the need for strengthened internal processes. The year-end checklist helped attendees prepare for timely reconciliation and filing, reducing the chances of penalties.



NORTH EASTERN REGION

India-Korea Joint CSR-Economic Seminar



Dignitaries at the India-Korea Joint CSR-Economic Cooperation Seminar in Kohima

CII-Nagaland, in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), organized the first Korea-India Joint CSR-Economic Cooperation Seminar in Kohima on 27 May. The seminar aimed to explore business opportunities between Korea and Nagaland with a CSR donation ceremony as a key feature.

The event also included two focused presentations showcasing Korea as a strategic economic partner and outlining Nagaland's promising sectors for investment. In addition to the seminar, the delegation made Industry visits to two CII member companies.

Mizoram Workshop on IT & GST



(L-R): Lalthansanga, Additional Commissioner of State Tax, Taxation Department, Government of Mizoram; Dr Vanlalhlana, Minister of State, School Education, Taxation, Higher & Technical Education, Information & Public Relations, Government of Mizoram; Dr Lalrintluanga Jahau, Chairman, CII Mizoram State Council and Director Zotrex Hospital Pvt Ltd; Hrangthanmawia, Assistant Commissioner of State Tax, Taxation Department, Government of Mizoram and Zorema Darkim, Consultant, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP at the Workshop on ITR and GST in Aizawl

CII Mizoram organized a one-day workshop on ITR and GST on 22 May in Aizawl to bridge the knowledge gap of taxation that prevails and to neutralise the emerging challenges among the people of Mizoram. About 100 people participated in the one-day event.

The event was attended by Dr Vanlalhlana, Minister of State, School Education Department, Higher & Technical Education, Taxation and Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Mizoram, and officials from the state's taxation department. Dr Vanlalhlana emphasized the importance of tax compliances, urging both businesses and individuals to fulfil their tax obligations responsibly.

Shri Lalthansanga, Additional Commissioner of State Tax, Taxation Department, Government of Mizoram, urged everyone to support the Taxation Department and the Government in collecting taxes. "Our youth are the future of our State, we must create a great example for them," he added. Dr Lalrintluanga Jahau, Member, CII Mizoram and Council Chair, and Director, Zotrex Hospital Pvt Ltd highlighted on critical issues and challenges faced by businesses in the state.



NORTHERN REGION

Discussions on ESDM Policy

A stakeholders' consultation on the Draft Haryana Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Policy was held in Gurugram on 17 May, under the chairmanship of Shri Rao Narbir Singh, Minister for Industries and Commerce, Government of Haryana. The CII delegation was represented by Mr Abhimanyu Sharaff, Chairman, CII Haryana State Council and Executive Director, Vikas Group.

One of the key recommendations put forth by CII was to align the State ESDM Policy with national initiatives such as the Electronics Components and Manufacturing Scheme, Production Linked Incentive Scheme, Electronics Manufacturing Clusters and Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors. The recommendations underscored that such alignment would help enhance investor confidence, optimise incentive utilisation and minimise policy overlaps. The Minister welcomed the suggestions and acknowledged the importance of harmonising State and Central policies to enable cohesive and effective implementation.

Future of Mobility in India–Discussions

The seventh edition of the CII Conference on the Future of Mobility in India, themed 'Reimagining Mobility: Driving Innovation, Sustainability & Smart Solutions for India's Future', held on 20 May in New Delhi, convened over 175 delegates from Government, Industry, and the technology sectors. The conference served as a vital platform for discussions on India's ongoing mobility transformation and the path ahead.

Shri Mahmood Ahmed, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of

India; Shri Anant Swarup, Former Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; Shri Ishtiyaque Ahmed, Program Director (Industry and MSME), NITI Aayog and Shri KC Sharma, Chief Engineer, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India, shared their perspectives during the conference.

Mr Vikram Gulati, Conference Chairman, Country Head & Executive Vice President, (Corporate Affairs & Governance), Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd emphasized that India's path towards smart and sustainable mobility must be rooted in the revitalisation of public transportation, transit-oriented urban planning, and the adoption of low-emission, clean vehicle technologies.

Mr Bhagwan K Bindiganaville, Conference Co-Chairman and Executive Vice President – Strategic Planning, Brand & Communication, VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd, spoke about the unprecedented transformation taking place in India's mobility landscape. This change, he noted, is driven by a young population, a rising middle class, rapid urbanisation, and strong sustainability commitments, bolstered by large-scale infrastructure investments. The conference also featured insightful deliberations on the strategic realignment of global supply chains, opportunities for Indian auto component exports, the implications of the evolving US tariff regime, and the pressing need for clean and inclusive mobility systems.

Future of AI, WEB3 and Enterprise Innovation

CII organized a high-powered conference on 23 May in Chandigarh, bringing together visionaries, technocrats, and Industry leaders to deliberate on the transformative future of artificial intelligence, Web3, and emerging enterprise technologies.

The event featured a series of engaging sessions, including panel discussions, exclusive dialogues, and networking interactions that explored the digital



(L-R): Alagesan Thesari, CEO – Automotive Business, SKF India and Southeast Asia; Hardeep Singh Brar, VP & Head of Marketing & Sales, Kia Motors India; Mahmood Ahmed, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways, Government of India; Sanjay Malhotra, Director, Jumps Auto Industries Ltd; Vikram Gulati, Country Head & Executive VP (Corporate Affairs & Governance), Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd and Neha Jain, Head – EV & Innovation Ecosystem, JSW MG Motor India at the Conference on Future of Mobility in India in New Delhi



(L-R): Mohit Bansal, CEO, Grey Marble Infra; Sarjit Virk, MD, FINVASIA; KK Yadav, Administrative Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce and Vivek Kapoor, Director, JAL Bath Fittings at the Conference on Exploring IT Frontiers in Chandigarh

landscape reshaping industries in Punjab and across India. The focus of the conference was to showcase the potential of cutting-edge technologies in catalysing innovation, particularly for SMEs and startups, and to position Punjab as a future-ready IT and tech hub.

The highlight of the conference was the special session on 'Positioning Punjab as India's Next IT & Tech Hub', which included an address by Shri Kamal Kishor Yadav, Administrative Secretary–Industries, Commerce, Investment Promotion & IT, Government of Punjab; Mr Sarvjeet Singh Virk, Managing Director, FINVASIA; Mr Vivek Kapoor, Chairman, CII Mohali and Director, JAL Bath Fittings and Mr Amit Jain, Chairman, CII Punjab State and Managing Director, Shingora Textiles Ltd.

Mr Yadav emphasized that Punjab's IT ambitions are grounded in real capabilities. "Through targeted policy, strong talent pipelines, and an active Industry engagement, we are poised to build a robust digital ecosystem," he added.



SOUTHERN REGION

Towards a Greener & Resilient Andhra Pradesh

CII Andhra Pradesh organized the Sustainability Summit on 16 May in Visakhapatnam with the theme 'Towards a Greener & Resilient Future'. The summit brought together senior Government officials, Industry leaders, and sustainability experts to chart a collective roadmap for climate resilient, inclusive growth.

Shri Kondapalli Srinivas, Minister for MSME, SERP, and NRI Affairs, Government of Andhra Pradesh, highlighted the state's commitment to green development. He announced key initiatives, including support for green technology adoption, low interest financing for sustainable enterprises, ESG aligned training for



(L-R): Dr Rambabu Paravastu, Chief Sustainability Officer, Greenko Group; DVS Narayana Raju, Chairman, CII Visakhapatnam Zone and Executive Director, Deccan Fine Chemicals India Pvt Ltd; Murali Krishna Gannamani, Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh and CEO & Managing Director, Fluentgrid Ltd; Kondapalli Srinivas, Minister for MSME, SERP, NRI Empowerment & Relations, Government of Andhra Pradesh; M N Harendhira Prasad, Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam District and S Narendra Kumar, Vice Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh & Executive Director, Apex Solutions Pvt Ltd Sustainability Summit in Visakhapatnam

MSMEs, and strengthening export capabilities for eco friendly products.

Shri MN Harendhira Prasad, Collector, Visakhapatnam, emphasised the district's role in advancing renewable energy, effective waste management, and MSME driven sustainable industrialisation.

Mr Murali Krishna Gannamani, Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh, and CEO & Managing Director, Fluentgrid Ltd stressed the importance of integrating sustainability with Swarna Andhra Vision 2047. He emphasised the role of circular economy, regenerative agriculture, and stakeholder collaboration in achieving the state's vision of USD 2.4 trillion economy.

Mr DVS Narayana Raju, Chairman, CII Visakhapatnam and & Executive Director, Deccan Fine Chemicals India Pvt Ltd underscored the pivotal role of MSMEs in scaling sustainable manufacturing and enhancing competitiveness. The summit featured over a dozen notable speakers from leading organizations, reinforcing the urgent need for collective action toward a sustainable, future ready Andhra Pradesh.

Interaction with Centre for Australia India Relations CEO

CII Andhra Pradesh organized a roundtable with Mr Tim Thomas, CEO, Centre for Australia-India Relations (CAIR), on 23 May in Visakhapatnam, to explore strategic opportunities for deepening Australia-Andhra Pradesh engagement. Mr David Eggleston, Deputy Consul-General, Australian Consulate General in Chennai, also participated.

Key discussions centred on enhancing economic, cultural, and innovation partnerships. Mr Thomas highlighted Australia's commitment to expanding ties with Andhra Pradesh, citing Visakhapatnam's potential in sectors such as green energy, MedTech, education, IT, agriculture, tourism, and sports. He emphasised collaboration to support Net Zero goals and urged stakeholders to foster two-way cultural and commercial confidence.

Dr V Murali Krishna, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh, and & Managing Director, Mahatma Gandhi Cancer Hospital & Research Institute noted that India-Australia bilateral trade reached USD 24.1 billion in FY 2023-24 and underlined the strong foundation for advancing joint efforts in trade, sustainability, and human capital development.

A key outcome of the roundtable was the proposal to establish an Australia-Visakhapatnam Business Forum, jointly led by CII and CAIR, to facilitate sector specific dialogue and promote bilateral cooperation.

Mysuru Members' Meet



(L-R): Utsav Agarwal, Vice Chairman, CII Mysuru Zone and Director, Bhoruka Fabcons Pvt Ltd; Nagaraja Gargeshwari, Chairman, CII Mysuru Zone and President & Director, Automotive Axles Ltd; P Ravichandran, Deputy Chairman, CII Southern Region and President - Danfoss India, Danfoss Industries Pvt Ltd and Dr Muthukumar N, Past Chairman, CII Karnataka and Advisor, Bharat Forge at the Members' Meet in Mysuru

CII Karnataka organized a Members' Meet with Mr P Ravichandran, Deputy Chairman, CII Southern Region and President, Danfoss India, Danfoss Industries Pvt Ltd, on 23 May in Mysuru. The event was attended by over 50 Industry members.

Mr Ravichandran highlighted the strategic role of CII's Centres of Excellence in supporting MSME members and highlighted the MyCII platform as an effective tool for generating business leads to boost regional Industry competitiveness. He encouraged CII Mysuru to launch Industry-specific initiatives aligned with the region's development priorities.

Stressing the importance of innovation, capability building, and inclusive practices, he urged members to integrate these elements into their strategies to drive sustainable growth. Mr Ravichandran reinforced Mysuru's vital contribution to Karnataka's industrial advancement and the need for aligned, future-ready efforts.

Interaction with Consul General of Australia

CII Karnataka organized an interactive session with Ms Hilary McGeachy, Consul General of Australia, on 14 May in Hubballi. The session provided a focused platform for dialogue on strengthening trade and educational linkages between Australia and India. The session was attended by over 25 Industry participants.

Ms McGeachy engaged in meaningful discussions with CII members, addressing opportunities and challenges in doing business with Australia. Key areas of discussion



(L-R): Keith Machado, Vice Chairman, CII Belagavi District and Managing Director, Orion Hydraulics Pvt Ltd; Hilary McGeachy, Australian Consulate-General; Vikrant Saigal, Chairman, CII Hubli-Dharwad District and Managing Director, Chuckmatic Pvt Ltd; Govindraj Kulkarni, Past Chairman, CII Hubli-Dharwad District and Plant Head, Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery Pvt Ltd at the interactive session in Hubballi

included market access, regulatory compliance, and logistics hurdles impacting Indian exporters. Members highlighted the need for streamlined access to trade related information and institutional support to improve bilateral business engagement.

The discussion also highlighted significant interest in the education and skilling sector. Participants explored avenues for student exchange programmes, academic partnerships, and vocational training collaborations. Suggestions included building support frameworks for Indian students, such as career guidance, visa facilitation, and exposure visits to Australian institutions. The session reinforced mutual interest in deepening economic and educational partnerships and laid the groundwork for future cooperation.

Interaction with Guidance Tamil Nadu

CII Coimbatore Zone organized an interactive session with Dr Darez Ahamed, MD & CEO – Guidance, Department of Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu, on 16 May in Coimbatore. Dr Ahamed shared key insights from his recent visit to Germany, where he noted growing partnerships between German Mittelstand firms and Coimbatore based industries.

He lauded Coimbatore's cost-effective, solutions-driven approach and recognised its industrial strength as a catalyst for Tamil Nadu's vision of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy.

Mr Pavankumar G Giriappanavar, District Collector, called Coimbatore the growth engine of Tamil Nadu, driven by citizen and Industry's inputs. Mr Rajesh Doraiswamy, Chairman, CII Coimbatore Zone and Joint MD, Salzer Electronics Ltd, emphasised Coimbatore's evolution from textiles to emerging sectors like IT, GCCs, logistics, and semiconductors, urging accelerated growth in line with the state's economic vision.

IWN Launch: Madurai Chapter

CII Madurai Zone launched the Indian Women Network (IWN) – Madurai Chapter on 29 April, appointing Ms Poornima Venkatesh as Convenor and Dr Hema Sathish as Co-Convenor. The launch marks a significant step in strengthening the women's professional ecosystem in Madurai.

The launch event was attended by eminent personalities, including Padma Shri Dr G. Natchiar, Founding Member, Aravind Eye Care System; Mr C Devarajan, Vice Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu and MD, URC Constructions Pvt Ltd; Mr Ashwin R Desai, Chairman, CII Madurai Zone and MD, A&T Video Networks Pvt Ltd; and Dr Uma Kannan, Past Chairperson, IWN Tamil Nadu and President, Thiagarajar College.

Mr Desai emphasised IWN's pivotal role in empowering women professionals through mentorship, skill building, and leadership development, particularly in Southern Tamil Nadu. Dr Kannan highlighted IWN's positive impact, referencing a McKinsey study that suggests closing the gender gap could add 30 per cent to India's GDP.

Mr C Devarajan lauded IWN's initiatives in enabling women to upskill and advance professionally. Dr Natchiar shared her experience of working, where women comprise 87 per cent of the workforce, many of whom excel through training and empowerment, even without formal education.

Promoting GI-Recognised Virudhunagar Samba Chilli

A Stakeholders' Meet was held on 6 May in Virudhunagar to mark the awarding of the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the iconic Virudhunagar Samba Chilli and explore strategies for enhancing its global market presence. CII played a vital role in securing this GI recognition through consistent advocacy and collaboration with Government bodies.

Organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kovilangulam, the event brought together key players, including CII, MABIF, Virudhunagar Chilli Merchants Association, the Horticulture Department of TNAU, and regional farmers who have safeguarded this indigenous variety for generations.

Celebrated for its vibrant red colour, moderate heat, and distinct wrinkled texture, the Virudhunagar Samba Chilli is a vital component of South Indian cuisine and a hallmark of sustainable agriculture. As a rainfed, open-pollinated crop, it thrives in arid climates with minimal inputs. The GI tag not only protects the chilli's unique identity but also opens doors for premium pricing and international branding.

Industrial Metaverse

CII Tamil Nadu Technology Development and Promotion Centre (TNTDPC) organized a conference on the Industrial Metaverse around the theme 'Simulation-Driven Transformation' on 7 May in Chennai. The event showcased the transformative impact of digital twins, extended reality, Artificial Intelligence, and advanced simulation technologies on modern manufacturing.

Mr Mathew Thomas, CEO & MD, Siemens Digital Industries Software, emphasised the shift of the metaverse from gaming to industrial innovation, transforming sectors such as manufacturing, automotive, and healthcare. Ms Deepanavisveswari, Executive Director, ELCOT, highlighted the Government's role in supporting digital transformation and accelerating Industry 4.0 adoption across Tamil Nadu.



(L-R): Anil Kumar PN, Co-Convenor, ICT & Electronics Panel CII Tamil Nadu and Vice President & Delivery Head, ADM, Infosys; Mathew Thomas, Co-Chairman, CII Task Force on AI-Tech Adoption, Digital Transformation & Industry 4.0 & CEO & MD, Siemens Digital Industries Software and Deepanavisveswari, Executive Director, ELCOT at the conference on the Industrial Metaverse in Chennai

The conference featured experts from TeamViewer, Monolith, Amazon Web Services, TCS, and NVIDIA, who shared practical insights and real world use cases of Industrial Metaverse applications. Panel discussions covered implementation strategies, scalability, and future readiness for digital integration in manufacturing and engineering ecosystems.

SR EHS Excellence Awards



(L-R): Rajesh Mittal, Co-Chairman, CII-SR EHS Excellence Awards 2024 and President & MD, Isuzu Motors India Pvt Ltd; A R Unnikrishnan, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu and Managing Director – Glass Group, Saint-Gobain Glass Pvt Ltd and S Vijayanand, Chairman, CII-SR EHS Excellence Awards & President & Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies Pvt Ltd felicitating the winner at the CII EHS Excellence Awards in Chennai

CII Southern Region organized the 17th edition of the CII EHS Excellence Awards on 8 May in Chennai. The event brought together over 720 participants from diverse industries, reinforcing the region's commitment to Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) excellence.

This flagship initiative attracted a record 279 applications, including over 150 first time participants, representing a 35 per cent increase from the previous year. The rigorous evaluation process involved around 160 trained assessors, who accessed performance across sectors.

A total of 49 Gold Awards, 118 Silver, 63 Bronze, and 50 Certificates of Participation were presented. Additionally, 30 Special Category Awards recognised achievements in areas such as air quality, water management, energy/carbon footprint, women in EHS, road safety, EHS leadership, and health risk management.

The award ceremony was complemented by the CII-SR EHS Summit themed 'Safety, Sustainability, and Success: The Future of Business', which featured high impact discussions on embedding EHS principles into core business strategies. A dedicated best practices sharing session provided a platform for Industry leaders to present innovative and practical approaches in EHS management.



WESTERN REGION

Corporate Cricket League



Dr Mohan B Rao, Past Chairman, CII Western Region Taskforce on Education and Adviser – New Initiatives at SIWS Group with the winning team from Tata Power Ltd in Mumbai

As part of its commitment to strengthening business ties and promoting sportsmanship and collaboration among corporate entities, the CII Western Region organized the Corporate Cricket League (CCL) on 24 May in Mumbai. This flagship event brought together representatives from leading businesses across the region in a unique blend of competitive sports and professional networking. The league served as a dynamic platform for informal interactions, strengthening camaraderie, and encouraging team building among professionals.

Set in a spirited and engaging atmosphere, the event celebrated the core values of teamwork, resilience, and strategic thinking, which are essential on the field and in the boardroom. A total of seven matches were played in an exciting league format, showcasing impressive athleticism, team coordination, and competitive zeal, reflecting the vibrant spirit of the corporate participants.

After a series of closely contested games, Tata Power emerged victorious, claiming the coveted CII CCL Cup. The winners were felicitated by Dr Mohan B Rao, Past Chairman, CII Western Region Taskforce on Education and Adviser – New Initiatives, SIWS Group. Dr Rao highlighted the importance of such initiatives in promoting employee engagement, stress management, and inter-organizational rapport in today's fast-paced corporate environment.

Developments in Customs and FTA

A session focused on the critical aspects of customs and compliance of Free Trade Agreements (FTA) was held

in Vadodara on 2 May. Delegates representing export-import, taxation, finance, and logistics departments from various organizations participated in the session. The discussion focused on ensuring seamless international operations as industries are increasingly seeking to expand their global footprint and focused on having a clear understanding of customs regulations and FTAs.

Discussions were held on the Duty Drawback Scheme, Annual Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) return and its amendments, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) requirements and the implications of tariff hikes, as well as customs audits and the necessary precautions to mitigate potential complications. Case studies were shared on customs litigation with a focus on relevant rules, regulations, and associated penalties.

Business Opportunities in Africa



Dignitaries at the Session held on 'Exploring Business Opportunities in Africa' held in Bhopal

A session was organized on 'Business Opportunities in Africa' on 6 May in Bhopal as part of the broader agenda to facilitate international cooperation and trade. The session was hosted in collaboration with the CII International Desk for Africa, which presented an overview of CII's ongoing initiatives and engagement efforts in the African region.

Insights were shared regarding the evolving economic landscape of Africa, key sectors for investment, and the immense scope for collaboration between Indian and African businesses. Indian Industry was encouraged to explore emerging opportunities in Kenya and across the African continent, especially in sectors such as agribusiness, manufacturing, renewable energy, healthcare, and digital infrastructure.

The presentation and interactive discussions underscored the growing interest among Indian businesses to engage with African economies and highlighted CII's role as a facilitator in building cross-continental partnerships. The event concluded with an open floor discussion, allowing participants to share perspectives, raise queries, and express interest in Africa-focused engagement platforms.

Goa State Level Kaizen Competition



Mahendra Wani, Vice Chairman, CII Goa State Council and General Manager, Location in Charge – Goa, Siemens Ltd along with dignitaries at the CII Goa State Level Kaizen Competition in Panaji

The seventh edition of the CII Goa State Level Kaizen Competition was held in Panaji on 16 May. The competition presented an opportunity for shopfloor employees to identify and present positive changes identified by them on the shopfloor that reap significant improvements and benefits for the organization.

Thirty teams from 20 companies participated in the competition. Syntegon Technology India Pvt Ltd, Danlaw Technologies India Ltd, Chowgule & Co Pvt Ltd and United Breweries Ltd emerged winners in the small, medium and large-scale categories, respectively. The winners at the CII Goa State level competition will now compete at the regional and national level competitions to be held in 2026.

Financing Opportunities and Incentives for MSMEs

A special session was held on 'Financing Opportunities and Incentives for MSMEs in Madhya Pradesh' on 15 May to disseminate crucial information on various financing avenues and Government incentives available to MSMEs. The session aimed to empower small and medium enterprises by providing insights into schemes, subsidies, and institutional support mechanisms that can help finance and scale their businesses.

Experts from financial institutions, Government departments, and Industry shared practical guidance on navigating funding options and leveraging available benefits to foster sustainable growth.

Workshop on Climate Change

A workshop on 'Climate Change: Pathways to Net Zero' was held in Kolhapur on 9 May. Over 40 delegates convened from a broad spectrum of sectors, including manufacturing, Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG), and Environment,

Health & Safety (EHS). The participants deliberated on India's transition towards a low-carbon economy. Key focus areas included the net zero program, the business impacts of climate change, GHG accounting, management practices, and a comprehensive understanding of Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions.

The workshop also featured in-depth discussions on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and its potential implications for the Indian Industry. Designed with an interactive approach, the session fostered meaningful dialogue, enabling participants to share insights and explore practical strategies for advancing sustainability and ensuring climate compliance.

Mentor-Mentee Program

The shortlisting round for the third batch of the Mentor-Mentee Program was held in Pune, on 9 May. The session brought together an accomplished panel of Industry mentors who reviewed and evaluated startup pitch decks submitted by aspiring entrepreneurs.

The meeting highlighted several innovative and high-potential startup ideas, reflecting the strength and diversity of India's entrepreneurial landscape. Mentors provided valuable feedback and engaged in discussions to identify startups best suited for the upcoming mentorship journey.

Best Practices in Manufacturing Excellence

The participants of a learning mission in Aurangabad visited several Industry facilities. These facility visits provided a platform for peer learning, showcasing excellence in areas such as lean manufacturing, quality management, digital integration, robotics, and sustainability in operations. The interactive sessions also allowed participants to engage with senior leadership from the host companies and understand their strategic approaches to achieving operational efficiency and global competitiveness.



Participants at a manufacturing facility in Aurangabad



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